MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

20 AUGUST 1981

Libyan-U.S. Clash

Libyan Account of Air Battle--Tripoli radio reported that the pilots of the two Libyan aircraft fired on by U.S. Air Force aircraft over the Gulf of Sidra, told newsmen that they had returned the fire of the eight U.S. F-14's, hitting one, which caught fire and fell "into the sea." According to JANA, U.S. helicopters searched for the pilot of the downed F-14, the "wreckage" of which was "found" by the Libyan Navy.

Diplomatic Protest--JANA reported that Libya had submitted a strongly worded protest over the incident to the United States through the Belgian Embassy, which looks after U.S. interests in Libya. The note accuses the United States of international terrorism. JANA added that Libya had submitted other explanatory notes to the Arab League, the United Nations, the OAU and the nonaligned states' organization.

Radio on "Contradictions" in U.S. Stand--Noting that U.S. 6th Fleet warships had withdrawn "outside Libyan territorial waters," Tripoli's radio claimed that a U.S. White House spokesman had admitted that two warships were inside Libyan territorial waters in the Gulf of Sidra at the time of the air battle, thus showing "clear contradictions" in U.S. official statements. It said the U.S. disclosure that F-14's were on patrol duty and that the Libyan SU-22's had not threatened the aircraft carrier Nimitz constitutes an explicit admission that the U.S. aircraft were carrying out provocative actions and were the first to fire. It also reported that U.S. Defense Department spokesman Larry Hamilton "has stated he does not know whether the U.S. F-14 aircraft were hit or whether the U.S. pilots were injured." This is a "confirmation and admission" of the downing of a U.S. plane, the radio claimed.

Middle East Comment, Reaction--While ITIM quoted Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin as describing the U.S. action as self-defense, Jerusalem radio said the Americans had set an aerial ambush for the Libyans for political purposes. Expecting the Libyans to confirm to past practice and fire warning shots at U.S. planes and ships in the Gulf of Sidra, the radio said, the Americans let the Libyans get near the Nimitz and then sent two F-14's as "bait" for the SU-22's. When the Libyans opened fire, the two U.S. planes had no difficulty in shooting them down immediately with Sidewinder missiles.

According to the clandestine Voice of Palestine radio, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat described the downing of the two Libyan aircraft by U.S. warplanes as directed not only against Libya but also the whole Arab nation. He said the act marked the beginning of a new stage in the conspiratorial plan against both.

Damascus radio reported that the newspaper TISHRIN called the incident planned and premeditated U.S. aggression.

Algiers radio reported that after the incident the Algerian Government expressed its "deep concern" to Libyan and U.S. officials.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi in an interview broadcast over Tehran radio expressed strong Iranian support for Libya in its struggle against the United States. He also said that Muslim friendship and unity were prerequisites for the defeat of the United States and the destruction of Zionism.

PDRY-Libya-Ethiopia Summit, Treaty

Aden radio reported that the leaders of the PDRY, Libya and Ethiopia had concluded their tripartite summit conference in Aden by signing a treaty of friendship.

PDRY leader 'Ali Nasir Muhammad told the final summit session that the talks had been fully successful, the radio reported, and added that the tripartite meeting marked a "point of transformation" in the "strategic alliance" among the South Yemeni, Libyan and Ethiopian revolutions. He spoke of a common readiness to cooperate in defense against "imperialist, Zionist and racist aggression." The radio also said Libyan leader Colonel al-Qadhdhafi had described the tripartite alliance as the beginning of a positive response to the "increasing recklessness of the United States and its agents in the region." He went on to say that the aggression of the United States and its allies can be deterred only by "prepared strength for use when necessary." Noting that the new alliance is linked to the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front and is supported by the socialist countries, al-Qadhdhafi claimed that all peace-loving forces in the world will rush to its defense if it is subjected to dangers by U.S. military schemes.

In a speech at a public rally in Aden the previous day, reported by JANA, Al-Qadhdhafi called on the Arab nation to mobilize against U.S. bases in the Arab world and stressed the need to strengthen Syria against Israel. He made a strong appeal for Yemeni unity and urged the Arabs to get rid of their "artificial borders."

Ethiopian leader Lt Col Mengistu Haile Mariam, in remarks reported by Addis Ababa radio, stressed that the objectives of the Aden summit were to strengthen peace and promote economic and social progress. However, the Voice of Lebanon radio claimed to have received information indicating that the tripartite meeting had devised a plan to strike Gulf oilfields and U.S. interests.

Iran

Demand for Gunboat Hijackers--AFP, citing an Elysee communique, reported that the Iranian gunboat hijacked by the Azadegan commando had been surrendered to the French Navy and that the vessel would be returned to Iran. Paris radio carried a statement by a presidential palace spokesman that said the hijackers would be neither extradited to Iran nor expelled from France. In a press conference statement reported by Tehran radio, Iranian Prime Minister Dr Mohammad Javad Bahonar demanded the arrest and extradition of the hijackers. An Iranian Foreign Ministry statement, carried by Tehran radio, reiterated Bahonar's demand. AFP later reported that in an address to the Majlis on 20 August, speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that refusal to return the hijackers put French ships at risk.

Internal Security--AFP, citing JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, reported that between 16 and 18 August 30 leftists were evacuated in the Provinces of Gilan and Mazandaran and the cities of Qom and Mashhad. Tehran radio reported the arrest of 15 leftists in several cities, and Ahvaz radio reported the arrest of another 9. Tehran radio noted the wounding of two Kermanshah revolution guards by two assailants in an automobile. The clandestine Free Voice of Iran radio reported the assassination of a Tabriz Hezbollahi fundamentalist leader.

Attack on Washington Interests Section--Citing an announcement by the Public Relations Office of the Foreign Affairs Ministry, Tehran radio reported that the Iranian Interests Section of the Algerian Embassy in Washington had protested to the U.S. State Department and U.S. legal authorities about the abortive attack on it by opponents of the Iranian Government assisted by "fascist U.S. police."

Iraq

Citing informed sources, AFP reported that Iraq and France will shortly begin talks on the conditions for French assistance to Iraq in rebuilding the nuclear reactor that was destroyed by an Israeli air attack in June. The decision was reached after talks in Paris between Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz and French President Francois Mitterrand.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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SUPPLEMENT TO LAND REFORM DECREE ISSUED 9 AUG

LD111542 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 Aug 81

[Supplement No 1 to DRA Revolutionary Council Decree No 8; issued as a decree of the Presidium of the DRA Revolutionary Council on 9 August]

[Text] Article 1. This supplement is being enforced for the purpose of continuing the democratic land reform, observing the principle of legal property, respecting the religious and tribal traditions and customs and enhancing the living standards of the people.

Article 2. Land belonging to pious legacies and sacred places such as mosques, religious and theological schools and shrines will not be taken and will be left at the disposal of their custodians.

Article 3. Land in excess of the taxable limits, which is at the disposal of the religious ulemas, preachers of mosques, mullahs and the spiritual leaders of the country, will not be taken from them after being approved by the Department of Islamic Affairs, which is involved with the land belong to them. The land will be left at their disposal and in their possession. The proprietors of the excess land cannot sell or lease it. It will be transferred to the legal heirs, provided these persons meet the inheritance requirements.

Article 4. Regarding the excess land which is above the taxable limits, which is in the possession of the leaders and elders of tribes who fight and have rendered prominent services against the domestic and external enemies of the revolution and in safeguarding the country's borders: In accordance with the approval of the Ministry of Tribal and Nationalities Affairs and the Supreme Council of Tribes, this land will not be taken from them and will be counted as their property because of their accomplishments.

Article 5. Land in excess of taxable limits, which is possessed by officers who are serving in the armed forces, will not be taken from them and will be left at their disposal and in their possession. Proprietors of this excess land cannot sell or lease it. The land will be transferred to their legal heirs, provided the heir or heirs held a job as a professional cadre in the armed forces. The income which will be derived from this land will be counted as an additional gift because of their services in the military.

Article 6. Excess land above the taxable limits which, based on legal documents, is in the possession of persons who expand production, use mechanization in agriculture and sell all their agricultural produce to the state, will not be taken from them after approval by the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform. It is to be counted as their property.

Article 7. Land within taxable limits of those persons and landlords who have escaped abroad as a result of the hostile propaganda of the counterrevolution and those who, as a result of the general amnesty, return home, will be returned to them on the condition that they have legal documents in this regard. If their land has already been distributed, the state will allocate to them an equivalent in new land.

Article 8. Regarding land which has been mentioned in this decree and which has been taken by the state up to the [time of the] enforcement of this decree and has been distributed to landless and small landowning peasants, the state will pay a just value to the original landlords in installments for a period of 20 years, beginning 5 years after the publication of this decree.

Article 9. Landless peasants and those with small plots of land who work on lease, as farmers or agricultural workers, on the land of those landlords mentioned in this decree are entitled to the land in accordance with Decree No 8 of the Revolutionary Council.

Article 10. Landless peasants and those with small plots of lands, whose sons are voluntarily serving in the armed forces and in units of the Ministry of Interior, are given priority in the distribution of land, based on the approval of the relevant ministries.

Article 11. This supplement is valid from the date of its ratification by the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium and will be published in the official gazette.

[Signed] Babrak Karmal, president of the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium

KARMAL PRESENTS MEDALS TO OFFICERS, SOLDIERS

LD162331 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 16 Aug 81

[Text] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, this afternoon presented bravery and service badges and medals to those commanders and political chiefs of various units of the armed forces who, due to bravery, heroism and valuable service in safeguarding the homeland and revolution, succeeded in receiving these awards.

The meeting, which was held on this occasion in Delkhosha Palace, headquarters of the Revolutionary Council, was attended by Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the party Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the Council of Ministers; Brig Gen Mohammad Rafi', minister of national defense; Maj Gen Abdol Qader and Brig Gen Gol Aqa, vice chairmen of the Revolutionary Council Presidium; Maj Gen Baba Jan, chief of staff; and commanders and political chiefs of various units of the armed forces.

Before the distribution of badges and medals, Babrak Karmal expressed deep gratification and thanks on behalf of the PDPA Central Committee, the Revolutionary Council and the DRA Council of Ministers, and on his own behalf, for the devotion, sacrifices, and unprecedented and immense endeavors of the heroic officers and men of the armed forces. He stressed the important duties of the commanders and the courageous personnel of our heroic armed forces and their historic responsibilities in the present conditions and circumstances of the country.

Babrak Karmal spoke about the eternal pride of society in the maturity of the party's military officials, and said in a part of his speech: Comrades, fighting a great holy war and upholding our sacred dignity begins in our consciences. A national army, equipped with the ideology of the working class, will be the guarantor of the future generation's prosperity and the prosperity of the proud, glorious and independent people of Afghanistan.

In another part of his speech, Babrak Karmal said: Comrades, unity and solidarity lead to power and strength. When unity is joined with conscious military discipline and when harmony and unity of action are (?preserved) in the ranks of the armed forces, party ranks, social organizations, the security forces and the broad masses of the working people, then in a short period all the conspiracies and treacherous (?intrigues) of the enemies of the revolution will be foiled and beloved Afghanistan will forge ahead toward construction and development.

In another part of his speech, Babrak Karmal warned against and condemned the warmongering and antihuman policies of U.S. imperialism, Chinese hegemonism and their treacherous lackeys. He said: Commanders and heroic officers of the armed forces, the U.S. people will eliminate U.S. imperialism, the Chinese masses will eliminate hegemonism and the people of Pakistan will topple the militarist regime of that country. It is our duty to condemn and defeat the (?communications), plots and intrigues of imperialism, hegemonism and reaction in Afghanistan--our sacred homeland.

To applause by the heroic commanders and officers of the armed forces, Babrak Karmal added: I hope that you heroes of Afghanistan's armed forces, being brave and courageous revolutionaries, will bear in mind two basic principles as aspirations and wishes--for the sake of the great efforts of the people of Afghanistan--and earnestly apply them in practice: First, maintain and strengthen the infallible party unity in your ranks; and second, struggle and fight for the speedy elimination of bandits sent in from outside with revolutionary power, together with the party, government and working people of Afghanistan.

The BAKHTAR correspondent reports that Brig Gen Gol Aqa expressed thanks at the end on behalf of the commanders and political chiefs for Babrak Karmal's revolutionary speech, and said: The courageous officers and men of the armed forces once again give their assurances to the heroic party and revolutionary government, and to Babrak Karmal, our militant comrade, that they will resolutely, fearlessly and relentlessly fight against the counterrevolutionaries and enemies of the homeland and always bear in mind your valuable guidance.

AGRICULTURAL DELEGATION LEAVES FOR NORTH KOREA

LD191822 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1730 GMT 19 Aug 81

[Text] DRA Minister of Agriculture and Land Reform Fazel Rahim Momand is heading an Afghan delegation which has left for Korea. Momand was invited by the deputy minister of the Democratic Republic of Korea to participate in a meeting of nonaligned and developing countries, concerning the increase in food and agricultural products, which is due to be held in Pyongyang.

The delegation was seen off at Kabul Airport by some members of the Council of Ministers; deputy ministers of the Agriculture and Land Reform Ministry; some heads of departments and the ambassador of the Democratic Republic of Korea in Kabul.

KARMAL RECEIVES TELEGRAMS FROM POLAND, BULGARIA

LD200540 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0420 GMT 20 Aug 81

[Text] Kabul, 19 Aug (BAKHTAR)--On the occasion of the 62d anniversary of Afghanistan's Independence Day congratulatory telegrams addressed to Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA, and Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the DRA have been received here from Stanislaw Kania, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers Party and Henryk Jablonski, President of the State Council of Poland, and from Todor Zhivkov, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Bulgaria and president of the State Council of the Peoples Republic of Bulgaria, and Grischa Filip, secretary of the Council of Ministers of the Peoples Republic of Bulgaria.

In these telegrams confidence is expressed that the friendly and comradely relations existing with Afghanistan will further develop in the interest of peace and progress in the world.

SIKHS DEMONSTRATE FOR KHALISTAN IN DELHI 17 AUG

BK171607 Hong Kong AFP in English 0823 GMT 17 Aug 81

[Text] New Delhi, 17 Aug (AFP)--About 500 Sikhs, supporting the demand for formation of "Khalistan" (a separate state for their community), today staged a demonstration near Parliament House here. Over 100 of them were arrested on charge of violating the prohibitory orders.

The demonstrators carried placards reading "Sikhs Alag Jat Hain" (Sikhs Are a Separate Nation) and "Stop Discrimination Against Sikhs." They demanded implementation of a resolution adopted by the Khalistan supporters at a conference months ago. The resolution demanded, among other things, greater autonomy for the predominantly Sikh province of Punjab leaving only defence, foreign affairs, communications and currency under the control of the federal government.

Mrs Nirlep Kaur, one of the leaders of the demonstration, told a meeting of their supporters at a nearby Sikh temple here before their march on Parliament started that "India's freedom was the Sikhs' ruin." She said they were demanding associate status at the United Nations for the Sikhs. There have already been reports of the "Khalistan"-demanding Sikhs having approached the United Nations for associate membership.

Jathedar Jagdev Singh Talwandi, another important leader of the Sikhs' "Akali Dal" party, pledged before the demonstrators were arrested, to attain the UN associate membership.

There was no violence.

GANDHI ON BORDER PRC, PAKISTAN BORDER SITUATION

BK200743 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 20 Aug 81

[Text] The prime minister informed the Rajya Sabha today there are no reports to suggest any unusual deployment of Pakistani forces on our borders. In reply to a question, Mrs Gandhi said the government carefully watches all developments affecting our security and takes timely measures to ensure full defense preparedness at all times.

In reply to another question, Mrs Gandhi said there is no information to suggest any increased Chinese activity on our borders across the Aksai Chin area.

Minister of State for Defense Shivraj Patil, in a written answer, informed the house that according to available information there has been a substantial increase in the military strength of Pakistan since 1972. He said our defense plans take into account all developments across our borders.

Additional Comments

BK191033 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 19 Aug 81

[Text] Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi has reiterated that India does not belong to any camp. We are neither pro-Soviet nor pro-American, but we are pro-Indian, she declared. Replying to a calling attention motion moved by N.N. Pandey, Congress-I, and 37 others, Mrs Gandhi said we have to be prepared to face any eventuality. There has to be a balance of self-reliance in defense requirements and sophistication required in armaments. We are not equally up in everything, she added. We have to try to get the best defense equipment for our armed forces. This, of course, does not mean that there is a slackening of our self-reliant efforts, she added.

Mrs Gandhi said that the United States has now faced the fact that once they supply sophisticated armaments to Pakistan, there cannot be any guarantee that it will not be used against India. While India recognizes Pakistan's legitimate defense needs, our concern arises out of their disproportionate acquisition of armaments.

Earlier, Minister of State for Defense Shivraj Patil assured the Rajya Sabha that the government is aware of the increased threat to the security of the country and is taking all necessary steps to maintain full defense preparedness.

RAO EXPLAINS CONCERN OVER SRI LANKA VIOLENCE

BK191019 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 19 Aug 81

[Text] Members of the Lok Sabha have expressed their concern over the reported racial violence and attacks on Tamils in different parts of Sri Lanka. The issue came up in the form of a calling attention motion in the House today. It was raised by Ramvilas Paswan, Lok Dal, and three others.

External Affairs Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao told the house that India has conveyed her concern to the Sri Lanka Government with whom the Government of India has been in constant touch. Sri Lanka assured India that they view these events with utmost seriousness and are determined to restore normalcy.

Mr Rao said that it is essentially an internal affair of Sri Lanka. Nevertheless, India has been concerned since they affected a large number of persons of Indian origin and possibly some Indian citizens. India hopes that the Sri Lanka Government will succeed in its efforts to put an end to the violence and restore confidence among the people of Indian origin.

ATOMIC POWER STATION TO BE SET UP IN GUJARAT

BK191640 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Aug 81

[Text] Orders have been placed for the purchase of materials and equipment for setting up an atomic power station at Kokarapara in Gujarat. This information was given in the Lok Sabha by Minister of State for Science and Technology C.P.N. Singh. He said that construction work of a main plant building is expected to start in 1982 and units Nos 1 and 2 are expected to be completed in 1990 and 1991. The power station will utilize indigenously available natural uranium as fuel, the minister added.

Mr Singh also informed the house that the location of the nuclear power plant in the northern region will be considered after the site selection committee submits its report to the government. Mr Singh pointed out that the nuclear power development program has to be integrated with hydro- and thermal-power programs.

The minister told the house that there are indications of the uranium being available in some areas of Bastar District in Madhya Pradesh. He denied that Libya had sought India's assistance in setting up a nuclear reactor in that country.

BAHONAR ON INTERNATIONAL, DOMESTIC ISSUES

LD191340 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Aug 81

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Mohammad Javad Bahonar took part this morning in a press conference attended by domestic and foreign correspondents. This press conference was held in the Prime Ministry building, where he answered correspondents' questions on various current affairs of the country, including the war, internal security, the government's plans for the oppressed and Iran's relations with other countries, especially Britain and France.

The prime minister first thanked God for the establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran, saying: With the vote of confidence given by Majlis deputies to my proposed Council of Ministers, all the organizations needed for the operation of this regime have been formed, and with the formation of this Cabinet unity, coordination and uniformity among the three branches have been achieved. With the decisive vote of the nation, by which Mr Raja'i was elected president, complete coordination between the president and all the members of the Cabinet has been established. Thus, in the present situation, as regards coordination, we will begin to act according to our responsibilities, and we are sure that with the guidelines given to us by the great imam and with the support of the Muslim and struggling nation this government will succeed in walking on the path of its own Islamic plans.

He also said: Of course, there are problems facing us with which we will deal decisively. The first is the war, which we will follow up seriously; the first steps toward victory have been taken for expelling the enemy. We will not allow this war to become a war of attrition or protracted war. We are determined to end this war victoriously, as soon as possible.

He added: The second issue is our reaction to minigroups. These groups have revealed their true face, and we intend to purge our country of these remnants. Because the nation is in line with us, alongside us and is acting decisively in this respect, the ground is prepared for victory and the people will purge the revolution of its impurities. We are sure that this issue will also come to an end.

He added: Despite all our problems we have not forgotten our support for the oppressed and will continue our fight against overpricing, inflation and our efforts to expand agriculture and to make progress toward nationalizing foreign trade and resolving the housing problem--all of which are included in our program.

Dr Mohammad Javad Bahonar expanded on the development of projects in the current year, saying: We intend to build 10,000 schools, of which 70 percent will be in villages, and we will employ 40,000 teachers and 20,000 students. The purging problem will be dealt with according to the reorganization of government departments bill after its approval by the Majlis. As regards universities, the plans prepared during this period will be implemented gradually. First is an educational plan to meet the need for training more medical students and the need for doctors in villages which, God willing, will be implemented after being approved by the Majlis.

A Central News Unit correspondent interviewed Dr Mohammad Javad Bahonar:

[Begin recording] [Question] Would you please tell us the general decisions made by the government regarding the country's internal security?

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The internal security of the country should be established as firmly as possible. As regards the minigroups, their [word indistinct] stances are known to us; their stance is hostile. They have begun their savage fight against us, our defenseless people and bystanders. We consider their stance bellicose, hostile and savage.

Our country has decided to end the present situation and to eradicate them, especially because of their connections with American imperialism, and those connected with the former regime, generals and their supporters, the CIA and others. The nation has decided to thwart them and will do so. As you know, with the vast support of the people this issue will be followed up, and we will soon witness the elimination of these minigroups.

[Question] Recently a plane and a gunboat were hijacked. Would you please tell us what the government's policy is as regards such incidents?

[Answer] Of course, we will take the necessary measures as regards the hijacking of the gunboat and the plane that escaped, and we will take severe precautions in the future. But we should explain a point to the nation of Iran. If there are one or two flights of a fugitive of treacherous nature, there are thousands of successful flights made by our air force planes during which they have pounded the enemy, when our Muslim, committed combative pilots have been able to show their power in war and their human, Islamic and revolutionary undertaking. By comparison such problems of escapes can be ignored, as it is quite common in war situations for such acts to be committed, and a few treacherous persons will commit treacherous acts.

The hijacking of our gunboat is piracy which precisely follows the expansionist line of U.S. imperialism and its allies in Europe. They thought they would be able to damage the reputation of Iran whereas, in my view, this issue is damaging to their own reputation, their honor and the security of international territorial waters.

Thus, the main problem from the viewpoint of the Iranian Navy or Air Force is not such a crushing problem, and we will not forget the revolutionary and beneficial acts performed by the navy and air force at the beginning of and throughout the war. The presence of some treacherous persons was also suspected, and one of the measures mentioned for the prevention of such incidents is the purging of undesirable elements in the armed forces which will hopefully prevent such incidents from happening again. [end recording]

KHO'INI ACCUSES FRANCE OF CONSPIRACY WITH U.S.

LD191221 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Aug 81

[Excerpts] Central News Unit correspondent reports that during this morning's Majlis open session, which started with recitations from the Koran and which was chaired by Mr Musavi-Kho'ini, deputy Majlis speaker, discussion on the contents of the bill on restoring manpower in the ministries, government institutions and those affiliated to the government continued.

Mr Musavi-Kho'ini said: We have heard the report concerning the naval vessel belonging to the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, that on the orders of America and with the guidance of the Mitterrand government pirates embarked on such a treason and theft. If Mitterrand has taken orders from the U.S. Government and Reagan to do such a foolish thing in order to reduce the angry shouts of the Iranian nation against America and to deflect some of that anger toward himself, he should know that he has made a mistake. Mitterrand and his like are unable to withstand the gigantic tide of the Islamic revolution. The only power worth mentioning in the fight against this revolution is the great Satan; Islam and Iran's revolution, with the help of God, will deliver the final blow to the great Satan.

Mitterrand's government and others like it (?are subservient to) America. Why did Mitterrand order the French diplomats who were in Iran to return to France? What did he fear? He believed that the Iranian nation might take them as hostages. They were not worthy of being taken as hostages. The Iranian nation would not treat others as it does America and does not consider them as it does America.

They are all America's servants. Thus, the Iranian nation is aware that so long as America is the great Satan, and so long as Islam and the Islamic revolution have not dealt the final blow to this Great Satan, our shouts and slogans will always remain "Death to America" and our fight will always be against America. We will slap America in the face, so that Mitterrand and his like will scream to Heaven [as heard].

During today's propaganda speech, with reference to the anniversary of the shameful 1953 coup d'etat, 'Ali Malakuti, the deputy from Sarab, said: The followers of that same line of compromise, the followers of the rule of the East or West over the Islamic homeland, tried to repeat the 1953 coup d'etat after the Islamic revolution.

He then referred to the plots and ploys by world-devouring America as regards confrontation with the Islamic revolution of Iran, adding: Is the lifeline of the Western world not in the hands of our Muslim nation? If they are to (resort to) theft, if they are to steal ships and so forth, who would be the loser?

Is the Strait of Hormuz not the jugular vein of the superpowers? If we were to assassinate these fugitive criminals in your countries, what could stop us? So be afraid of the day when this Muslim nation feels obliged to do this. You should know that the time when the shah departed, leaving behind a group of criminals, has passed: Now sovereignty belongs to Islam; the nation has come to know its imam and will not stop following him even for one moment.

The Islamic Consultative Assembly will resume its assessment of the bill during tomorrow's session, which will be held at 0800.

EXTRADITION OF HIJACKERS DEMANDED; FRANCE WARNED

Speaker: France Set Precedent

NC200806 Paris AFP in English 0746 GMT 20 Aug 81

[Text] Tehran, 20 Aug (AFP)--Iran renewed its demands today that France extradite a dissident Iranian commando which hijacked the French-built gunboat Tabarzin on its maiden voyage to Tehran a week ago.

In a new warning to French President Francois Mitterrand, whose government has said the commandos will not be expelled from France, the speaker of the Iranian parliament, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, said France was in breach of international law.

Addressing parliament, the speaker said the French response to Iran's demands set a precedent which could lead other countries to protect hijackers.

"No law in the world can justify the granting of political asylum to hijackers," he said.

The French refusal to return the commandos to Iran put the security of French vessels at risk, the speaker added. "How could you (France) protest if your ships and aircraft were hijacked in the Gulf and we decided to protect the hijackers," Mr Rafsanjani added.

Members of the Iranian commando unit were transferred to the Paris region last night after docking in southern France on Tuesday and the gunboat was being held by the French Navy.

France has said the gunboat will be sent on to Iran.

Foreign Ministry Statement

LD192250 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 19 Aug 81

[Statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. According to the reports received from France, apparently the pirates, headed by a traitor named Habibollahi, an American mercenary, have surrendered to the French forces. The French Government has announced that it will return the Iranian vessel to the Iranian Government.

Although an end to this conspiracy is logically a victory for the Islamic revolution of Iran, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has not and will not change its mind about its demand for the arrest and the extradition of these pirates, in the same way as it has not changed its mind about the arrest and extradition of criminals like Bani-Sadr and Rajavi.

The Foreign Affairs Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran once again, emphasizing the fact that any help to these pirates will be considered as a serious threat to the freedom of navigation on international waters, declares that the French Government with the extradition of the criminals to the Iranian Government, can show that it respects the demands of all nations, including France, for the decisive prevention of such terrorist acts.

[Signed] The Foreign Affairs Ministry of Iran

French Charge Warned

LD191112o Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Aug 81

[Text] Today the French charge was again summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. At the meeting which took place, a Foreign Ministry official warned France about the (?consequences) of its refusal to extradite the pirates and said that France's disregard of international laws and security at sea will endanger France itself in the future. Naturally, this would not be welcomed by the French Government.

Tehran Criticizes France

LD191758 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Aug 81

[Text] According to reports which we have received, the pirates who hijacked an Iranian naval craft gave themselves up to the French authorities. The French authorities announced that they would hand over the naval craft to Iran but that the pirates would be dealt with in accordance with France's special laws. From the viewpont of political quarters, this French position means France is unwilling to hand over the pirates to Iran. In the opinion of political observers in Tehran, in such a case France would in effect be backing terrorism and would be jeopardizing security on the world's open seas. Should the wave of terrorism, which is currently being employed against the oppressed nations of the world and particularly the Islamic revolution continue on a worldwide level there is no reason why it should not in the future threaten world security. In the opinion of political observers, any support for pirates and terrorists by France is playing with fire.

BAKHTIAR CALLS ON EXILES TO JOIN FORCES WITH ARYANA

NC181410 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 18 Aug 81

[Text] The leader of the National Resistance Movement of Iran, Shapur Bakhtiar, has sent an extremely important message to the Iranian military and tribes, the text of which reads as follows:

In these destiny-making days, when the blood of the innocent people of our dear homeland is being shed by the hands of a bunch of treacherous executioners, I deem it necessary to inform the dear compatriots of the following:

1. I want all men of the armed forces, gendarmerie and police who are abroad to report as soon as possible to the secretariat of General Bahram Aryana who is a patriotic, pure and devoted soldier.

2. I expect all brave and patriotic tribes who have so far announced their readiness to save the homeland to contact reliable and known persons and to place themselves at the desposal of representatives of the Iranian Armed Forces staff, the secretariat of General Aryana.

3. The nature of the insurrection of the Iranian nation for overthrowing the clerical regime should be a popular one. Therefore, I advise our sisters and brothers who after 2 years have realized the correctness of my foresights to further consolidate their ranks.

May your efforts lead to the dismantling of the bloodthirsty mullahs and of the hooligans and ruffians who are in their service.

Iran shall never die!

[Signed] Shapur Bakhtiar [this message is repeated several times during the course of the program]

SUPPORT FOR LIBYA ON PLANE INCIDENT DECLARED

Musavi Interview

LD191428 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Aug 81

[Interview with Foreign Minister Hoseyn Musavi on 19 August, place not given--recorded]

[Text] [Question] Mr Musavi, according to AFP reports, the gunboat hijacked by monarchists has arrived in Toulon in France after changing its course several times, and its hijackers have begun negotiations with French officials. As the minister of foreign affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, would you please tell us the latest information you have received in this respect and what steps have been taken to date in this connection?

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. About the latest reports we have received in this respect [words indistinct] and we have no more information yet. Of course, the officials investigating the incident in France are active there and are in contact with French officials. In our view, we hope that France will not yield to its oppressive [words indistinct] and will realize that any concession or freedom of movement granted to pirates will become a license for continuing such acts and will endanger the security of international waters all over the world. This would be taken as a sign of surrendering to the United States as well, since the United States has obviously been involved in this incident, and in fact the prestige of France might be reduced to the level of the prestige of the Moroccan Government. Obviously, if France takes steps to grant asylum or to comply or to cause in any way the gunboat, which has been taken to the French coast at great expense as the French Government is aware, to leave, then such an act would show that there is cooperation with the CIA and that U.S. policies have been followed. Long-term consequences of such an act will affect not only France but also other countries.

[Question] We were informed that U.S. planes have endangered international flights and have downed two Libyan planes. Have you received any information in this respect?

[Answer] The report we have just received is that two F-14 planes belonging to the United States have downed two planes belonging to the government of our brother country Libya. In our view, this attack reveals the increasing criminal and aggressive inclination of the United States all over the world.

It also reveals the healthy and powerful inclinations of the nation and the Libyan Government in fighting imperialism and Zionism, since if Libya did not try to confront the great Satan, naturally such an attack would not have taken place and the two Libyan planes would not have been downed by U.S. planes. We strongly declare our support for the nation and Government of Libya in this struggle, and we hope that this act will show all Muslims of the world and all the countries and governments that honestly fight imperialism and Zionism that the formation of a united extended Islamic front to fight imperialism and Zionism should be taken seriously.

As it has been announced many times before--and the Government the Islamic Republic of Iran has announced it, too--struggle against imperialism is a universal struggle; it is a complicated and extended struggle which is being fought over a vast area. The United States cannot be defeated and Zionism cannot be destroyed unless the Muslims join hands in friendship and unity and use contemporary, effective methods on a large scale, backed by 1 billion Muslims, and begin their fight against imperialism and Zionism.

Obviously, we will stand by the nation and Government of Libya and will follow this incident carefully. We hope that the nation and Government of Libya are aware that any attack or aggression launched by imperialism should be countered by a harder blow and that one should not retreat. Any retreat or reduction in the intensity of the struggle would mean victory for imperialism; conversely, it would mean the death of imperialism in all Islamic countries. We are sure that the nation and the Government of Libya have a similar approach, too.

Foreign Ministry Statement

LD191848 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Aug 81

[Statement issued by the Foreign Affairs Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran on 19 August]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. "We are the enemy of the oppressors, whether they have oppressed us or whether they have oppressed our Muslim brothers." [quote from Imam Khomeyni]

The bloodthirsty United States has once again committed a crime against our Muslim brothers in Libya and has added a new page to its black and dirty pages.

According to reports from reliable sources, several F-14 aircraft flying over the Libyan waters this morning attacked two Sukhoi aircraft of the Libyan Air Force. Following the directives of the leader of the Islamic nation, Imam Khomeyni, the Muslim people of Iran have always announced that until complete victory over the criminal superpowers they will not stop their struggle. They will support the struggles of the Muslim and the oppressed nations against colonialism.

The Foreign Affairs Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran condemns this savage act and this aggressive crime and expresses its decisive support for the Muslim Libyan brothers against the criminal United States. We emphasize once again that only an Islamic and anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist front can bring the struggles of 1 billion oppressed and dominated Muslims to fruition.

We declare that a front comprising all the world's Muslims, with the slogan of "God is great" and with inspiration from the principles of Islamic ideology, can eventually tighten the stranglehold on the world's oppressors and eliminate them from the face of the earth.

Together with our imam we cry: Relying on Almighty God and preserving the unity of expression, be ready for confrontation with the enemies of Islam and the enemies of the oppressed.

ATTACK ON INTERESTS SECTION IN U.S. PROTESTED

LD191740 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Aug 81

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, the Public Relations Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran has announced:

Following an abortive attack by those deceived by the United States on the Iranian Interests Section of the Algerian Embassy in Washington, and the collaboration of the fascist U.S. police with them, the Iranian Interests Section of the Algerian Embassy has protested through diplomatic channels and through the Algerian Embassy at the collaboration of the U.S. police with the fugitives and professional thieves of the imperial regime. The Iranian Interests Section has asked the U.S. State Department and the American judicial authorities to deal with this matter as soon as possible and to take measures for the freedom of Akbar Maleki, who was severely injured in this savage attack. The U.S. police has asked for $27,000 bail for his release.

OIL MINISTER SAYS U.S. TRYING TO BREAK OPEC

LD200932 Tehran PARS in English 0750 GMT 20 Aug 81

[Text] Tehran, 20 Aug (PARS)--The Iranian oil minister, Mohammad Gharavi, who is in Geneva for participation in the OPEC conference, said to PARS yesterday morning that the United States is trying every possible means to break the present price of oil at whatever rate, with the hope of shattering the foundations of OPEC in the future. He said he had clearly described Iran's position vis-a-vis the issue to other OPEC members and asserted that Iran is committed to resisting all attempts for undermining OPEC at any cost and will do so despite the economic sanctions against Iran, the country is being embroiled in an undeclared war with Iraq, and also despite the presence of about 3.5 million war refugees in Iran. He expresses the hope that the tough and clear-cut stand of Iran would set an example for other OPEC members to follow.

He added: The base price proposed by Saudi Arabia is not likely to have any adverse effect on the Saudis but will bring loss to other OPEC members which do not produce oil as much as that country.

PLO ENVOY WELCOMES MUSAVI IDEA OF ISLAMIC FRONT

LD192212 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Aug 81

[Text] Salah az-Zawawi, the PLO's ambassador to Iran, gave an interview today to a Central News Unit correspondent about the suggestion by the minister of foreign affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran that a united Islamic front be set up to liberate Palestine from the claws of imperialism and Zionism, and the need for this movement to have an Islamic nature.

He said: The idea of setting up an anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist front is a correct one. Now that the minister of foreign affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran has announced it, this idea should be translated into action. The parties that welcome the idea, such as the PLO which welcomed this suggestion through its representative in Iran, should be invited to set up such a front.

The setting up of fronts is well known on the international level, and the form of these fronts is specified by their nature and the parties that participate in them. It all depends whether the parties concerned are popular by nature or are friendly, and it depends on the nature of the regimes that take part in such a front.

In fact, the setting up of this front is an extremely important issue, about which discussions should take place between those who welcome this idea and those who have called for its establishment. As a result, the true nature of the front will be clarified, although its overall nature is clear.

He added: It is obvious that this front should oppose world imperialism led by the United States, and at the same time it should also oppose international Zionism. Therefore, we should provide an opportunity to discover the reaction of the parties interested in this idea. The idea should then be crystallized and finally translated into action.

Salah az-Zawawi expressed the hope that this front would be totally successful. Continuing his remarks, he said: Since the victory of Iran's Islamic revolution--just as Yasir 'Arafat said--our front has extended from Tyre to Khorasan. This is because, from an ideological viewpoint, the Islamic revolution is undoubtedly moving toward the liberation of Palestine. Iran's Islamic revolution, which has fixed its sights on the liberation of Palestine and on giving help to the armed struggle of the Palestinian people and their people's war, could in effect genuinely participate in crystallizing this Islamic front, which his excellency the foreign minister has suggested forming. Accordingly, we have received and agreed to this idea and we believe that through discussions and an exchange of views its crystallization can be achieved. However, at the same time I say that the Islamic revolution, in view of its interest in the liberation of Palestine, could help the Palestinian revolution conclude its struggle in a manner which would culminate in the fundamental goal, the liberation of Palestine. The Palestinian ambassador said: I believe that when the Islamic revolution opens its arms to embrace the Palestinian revolution it would, in fact, help toward finding the Islamic direction of the Islamic revolution.

In the interview, Mr az-Zawawi said: I would like to send a message to the imam of the Islamic nation, His Great Eminence Ayatollah Khomeyni, and all the responsible authorities in this country and to our fraternal nation in this republic, saying that the presence of the Islamic revolution in all our battles, whether by granting material, military and medical help, is undoubtedly a practical presence and is considered to be the prelude to setting up this front. This is because, in this way, the Palestinian people and combatants feel that their brothers in the Islamic revolution, in every step and in every victory and battle that they may wage, will be with them.

VOA REPORT ON CLOSURE OF PLO MISSION REBUTTED

GF191159 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 19 Aug 81

[Text] The Palestinian Embassy in Tehran has issued the following statement:

Last night the Voice of America broadcast a report in Persian saying that the Palestinian Embassy in Tehran had been closed. Our problem with U.S. imperialism and all unpopular regimes is that they issue judgments which stem from their colonialist conception that is based on the oppression and enslavement of the people. Bearing this in mind, we understand this report.

The Palestinian revolution does not comprise an embassy only; rather, it has massive dimensions that are deeply rooted in the heart of every Iranian, who is ready to fight and who has kindled the Islamic revolution, whose first slogan was "Today Iran, tomorrow Palestine." The Palestinian cause and the Palestinian revolution are in the heart and conscience of Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the Islamic nation, and in the hearts of all his compatriots, who view the victory of the Islamic revolution as incomplete without the liberation of Palestine.

Palestine, its people, its embassy and its sentiments will live in the hearts of Iranians until all Iranian women, men, youth (?take part) in the liberation of Palestine and its capital, Jerusalem and the expulsion of the last U.S. presence from the Islamic world.

Consequently, this biased report remains part of the covert and overt war being waged by U.S. imperialism against the solidarity between the Iranian and Palestinian revolutions. Striking out at this solidarity will remain the object of the enemies of the people. However, victory will be achieved through patience.

[Signed] Palestinian Embassy in Tehran

BANI-SADR URGES KHOMEYNI TO CHANGE REGIME

PM191455 Paris PRANCE-SOIR in French 17 Aug 81 p 7

[Francois Corre interview with former Iranian President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr in Auvers-sur-Oise: "The French Were in Danger in Iran"--date not given]

[Text] Question: I have been informed that President as-Sadat offered you asylum in his country. Are you going to accept that proposal?

Answer: That is a false report which has been deliberately published by PARS, the official Iranian news agency. That report is untrue. I have not contacted President as-Sadat, nor has he contacted me.

Question: Where do you plan to live in the future?

Answer: You know that I was a student here in Paris. I am attached to this city; I lived here for 16 years. I arrived on 22 September 1963. I remember the exact date because the same day I applied for a residence card which I then renewed on the same date each year. I only left Paris in 1979 to return to Iran.

At present I have no plans to leave. Moreover, I like Auvers-sur-Oise. The house in which I am living is pleasant and the countryside is beautiful. I am staying, at least for the time being.

Question: You must know about the incredible affair of the Iranian patrol boat boarded by a rebel organization. What do you think of it?

Answer: I do not think it is difficult to organize an action like that. I also think it is insignificant. It does not even demonstrate the weakness of the present regime in Iran. It is always possible to stage such an operation against anybody. Those who carried out the operation simply wanted to show the world that they exist and to make people believe that they are active and strong. But I do not think they are strong. In order to overthrow a regime and establish another lasting regime, various conditions must exist. In particular, it is necessary to have vast popular support. Those who seized the patrol boat have no popular support. I do not mean that they have no supporters in Iran; there are certainly a few extreme rightwing groups which sympathize with them. But they have no base, not even in the ranks of the Iranian Armed Forces.

Question: You mean that Iran is at present in no danger of a restoration of the imperial regime or of a pro-American regime?

Answer: Yes, there is such a danger. Such a regime could be restored through despair, insecurity, war inside or outside the country, hunger, lack of freedom. When chaos reigns in a country anything can happen. But there are people who have very little credibility in Iran and have little support there. There are others, however, who have a great deal of credibility and strength.

Question: Do you think you have the base which the rightwing movements lack?

Answer: Just look at how we are being attacked both by the supporters of the former regime and those of the present regime. That proves our strength. They are all afraid of us. We have the people, the state and the armed forces behind us.

A total of 2.7 million people voted in the 24 July elections. That is the real figure, the official figure which the authorities know but which they did not publish. They stated that five or six times more people than that voted. That is completely untrue.

A resistance is developing in Iran about which nobody has any idea here in the West and of which Imam Khomeyni himself may not be aware. The whole people are in favor of change.

Question: How do you plan to effect this change?

Answer: The resistance is extraordinarily intense, and so is the repression. At present we are losing more men in the armed conflicts breaking out in the cities inside Iran than we are in our war with Iraq. I hope that Imam Khomeyni, under pressure from this resistance, will go back on some of his actions and statements. I hope that the situation will persuade him to restore freedom.

I therefore hope that things will be settled by the expression of the peoples will and that they will be settled before the imam's death. Things must be settled before he dies so as to enable us to avoid chaos. The imam has all the instruments of power in his hands. He must hand them over and allow the people to choose their officials.

Question: So you are still counting on Imam Khomeyni to change the present Iranian regime?

Answer: Yes. What we must do is liberate the despot from himself.

Question: You were mistaken in Imam Khomeyni. You believed in him.

Answer: I was indeed rather mistaken about Khomeyni's weaknesses. I did not see them clearly. He had proclaimed the principles of freedom and national independence. He had said that he would not interfere in affairs of state. Unfortunately, he gave in to his personal leaning toward dictatorship. I did not think he was so weak.

Question: Do you not now regret that you helped Khomeyni take power?

Answer: I played my role in this Iranian revolution, which was the finest revolution of this century. No other revolution can be compared with it. A whole, united, fraternal people was seen to absorb and completely swallow the former regime. The armed forces and the machinery of state all collapsed in an instant, everything vanished. Everything merged into the people without recourse to arms. Virtually no blood was shed. Has there ever been a revolution in which so little blood was shed as in the Iranian revolution? It was only later that the blood began to flow.

Question: Do you think it was right to bring our nationals home to prevent French blood being shed in Iran?

Answer: Yes. There was no danger of them being taken hostage, as were the American diplomats, because the people would not have followed if they had been asked to organize such an operation a second time. The Iranian people are no longer following. They are no longer obeying instructions. Only 5,000 people were found to demonstrate against the French Embassy whereas millions marched outside the American Embassy. But the French were in danger from an isolated action. For instance, somebody might well have shot at them.

Question: I do not think anybody could shoot you because you are very well guarded, but are you not afraid of having your fingers rapped for talking to journalists too much? You promised to observe a degree of political neutrality.

Answer: If somebody comes to see me as you have done and asks me questions, I answer. If somebody thinks I am going too far one day, well, it will stop!

BANI-SADR INTERVIEWED ON BALANCE OF FORCES IN IRAN

PM191131 Paris LE MONDE in French 18 Aug 81 p 3

[Jean Gueyras interview with former President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr in Auvers-sur-Oise: "Attacks on Prominent Members of the Regime Are Inevitable"--date not given]

[Text] "I am still the legal president of the Iranian Republic." Mr Bani-Sadr has not changed much: There are very few gray hairs to betray the trials of the past few months and the thin moustache which he shaved off when escaping has grown again. He thinks that, despite the constraints imposed by Paris in international relations, the French authorities still regard him as the real head of the Iranian state. Moreover, he no longer intends to leave France. "I am not seeking political support from France, "he said, "simply the opportunity to work to attain my objective which is to restore freedom in my country."

Whatever the truth is, the French authorities are taking great pains to protect the former Iranian president and Mas'ud Rajavi, his "prime minister" and leader of the Mojahedin. Several dozen republican guards, carrying machineguns and walkie-talkies, carefully patrol the sector of Auvers-sur-Oise containing the house in which the two exiled Iranian leaders are living. After passing the barrier across the entrance in Rue des Gords, after many identity checks, journalists are subjected to a particularly strigent search by plainclothes policemen. "It is only natural, "Mr Bani-Sadr told us. "All the pro-Khomeyni and pro-American factions are trying to get rid of me. Moreover, that is one of the reasons I was reluctant to leave the country. I am in more danger in Europe than I was in Iran, what with the CIA, the intelligence service [in English in original], the KGB and the Mafia...."

[Question] So why did you leave Iran?

[Answer] I must tell you I hesitated for a long time. It was the Mojahedin who proposed my departure. I opposed that but when they insisted, I asked the Mojahedin and my supporters to decide for me and I simply bowed to their decision. First, Mas'ud Rajavi suggested that I leave Iran on 21 July; in other words, 3 days before the election of the new president. I wanted to know whether the people were going to vote against me by taking part in the elections. However, almost none of the people took part in the election. There was widespread abstention. According to a secret Interior Ministry report which came into our possession, only 2.7 million people went to the polls, whereas the authorities officially announced participation by more than 14 million. It was that expression of the people's approval which persuaded me to leave Iran.

[Question] When are you going to form the National Resistance Council?

[Answer] It has already been formed. We have not yet published its composition, purely for security reasons. All I can tell you on this subject is that this council has been formed in Iran itself and not abroad; it comprises several revolutionary groups other than the Mojahedin and my supporters. In any case, it is not the groups which are essential; the important thing is that the people are with us.

[Question] What methods do you intend to use to regain power in Tehran?

[Answer] Our line of action is to issue a communique in Iran on Saturday, 15 August in which I call for the formation "by all possible means" of cells of resistance and struggle.

Since I was overthrown more than 600 people have been executed. The television is showing horrible scenes of mothers welcoming the execution of their sons. This is unacceptable. We must reply by the same means as the regime is using in order to restore freedom.

[Question] How do you analyze the present situation in Iran?

[Answer] At present there is a dictatorship in Iran and two factions fighting to lead that dictatorship; on the one hand there is Khomeyni and on the other the pro-Americans directed from abroad. In my opinion, there is no fundamental difference between these two factions. The National Resistance Council's task is to liberate Iran from these two factions and to give sovereignty to the people. The citizens are no longer prepared to accept being treated as children. The leaders have just executed 600 people and have still not realized that the people have woken up and are capable of determining their fate. In other countries the royalist oppositionists are doing the same thing. They are not talking about the people and their will, but solely about the role of the armed forces, of force and about their own action, as if the people did not exist.

[Question] You have frequently spoken about the armed forces, too, and have asserted that 90 percent of them supported you. How do you explain the fact that they took no action when you were overthrown? Are you relying on them in your bid to win back power?

[Answer] The armed forces could not take action because they were at the front. I asked them to continue the struggle. I was and still am opposed to the idea of a military uprising. It is the people who must change their own destiny. In addition it was I--and I am proud of this--who changed the armed forces' way of thinking, and they are now loved by the people and are respected because for the first time in their history they have taken part in defending Iran's independence.

[Question] Is the all-out war you are waging against the present regime in Tehran not helping to undermine the battle which the armed forces are fighting?

[Answer] The armed forces are not fighting to defend the regime but to protect the country. Any soldier in Iran will tell you that.

[Question] Some people maintain that you have become the prisoner of the Mojahedin, whom you formerly condemned....

[Answer] That's not true. I wanted the Mojahedin to have a role in the Revolution Council and that is precisely what Khomeyni has never forgiven me for. It is true that I criticized some aspects of their ideology. But I did so as a theoretician. In any case that does not prevent political cooperation. At first Khomeyni had the support of 99 percent of the population. Despite his advantages he has not succeeded in asserting himself. Similarly, any group which imagines it can govern alone and make use of me will be committing suicide. I will never be a Prince Sihanouk and Iran is not Kampuchea.

[Question] Do you approve of the attacks?

[Answer] There are attacks and attacks. According to a confidential report which reached me from Germany, some prominent members of the former regime are studying the possibility of using the bomb attacks both to undermine the Khomeyni regime and to tarnish the image of the revolutionary opposition. In any case it is Khomeyni who bears most of the responsibility for these attacks. It is he who created the violence. I proposed that he end the executions for 3 months and replace them with open debate. His reply was to demand that the revolution courts take a firmer line. If the people in power in Tehran end these illegal and anti-Islamic actions, I think the attacks will stop. In any case we condemn the random attacks aimed at the population. But there are attacks organized by the Mojahedin and other groups. They are necessitated by Khomeyni's behavior.

[Question] Did you approve of the blowing up of the Islamic Republican Party [IRP] headquarters?

[Answer] The day after the attack I published a communique condemning it and the executions.

[Question] What about attacks on prominent members of the regime?

[Answer] They are inevitable. What else do you expect?

[Question] Do you not think this type of action is pointless unless you strike at the top?

[Answer] No. When Razmara (note: shah's prime minister) was assassinated in 1951 and the attacker failed to kill the shah, oil was nationalized shortly afterwards and Mossadeq was appointed prime minister. There is no point in saying it is a good or bad thing. The fact is that between 40 and 50 people ae executed each day. I think things are going to change. Once the leaders understand that they cannot save themselves, they will give in.

[Question] So you believe the regime is doomed?

[Answer] The regime does not really exist. It is simply an obstacle. If we succeeded in overthrowing it....

[Question] Aren't you afraid that the monarchists might regain power then?

[Answer] Not in the short term. But in the long term it is possible, thanks to the despair created by the economic crisis, the government's paralysis and the war outside and inside the country. One day people will conclude that anything is better than this situation; that is where the danger lies.

[Question] You are acting and speaking as if the IRP no longer had any influence in the country. Are you sure of that?

[Answer] Khomeyni is demonstrating that. Otherwise why is he so relentlessly continuing the executions whose number increases each day? It is obvious the imam has lost some of his popularity. Indeed, only 15 to 20 percent of the population supports him.

[Question] Are you sure of that figure? Remember that after your election you said: "The IRP no longer exists," and yet....

[Answer] You are making a mistake. The IRP does not exist. It is not the IRP that rules. It is merely the equivalent of the Rastakhiz Party under the shah--a cover which has no real political existence but which justifies and legitimizes the action of the Islamic institutions, the revolution guards, the revolution courts, the committees and the Mostazafin organizations.

[Question] What about the U.S. hostage affair?

[Answer] Right. Let's discuss it. It was that affair which opened my eyes and made me understand that there was a tendency toward dictatorship. The story of the hostages changed many things, notably the balance of forces between the mullahs and the intellectuals. Previously, the intellectuals used the mullahs and after this affair it was the mullahs who used the intellectuals. I began to explain that development to the people. Despite my job as president, I became the leader of the opposition, and in that role I succeeded in changing many things. That is why I regard myself as the victor, not the vanquished party.

[Question] In that connection, you were accused of being pro-American.

[Answer] The hostage affair was used by the Americans to refloat the dictatorship in Iran. In a book I am busy writing, I explain how the Americans succeeded through the hostage affair in changing things in Iran and turning the revolution into a counterrevolution.... I think it is this same policy which established the dictatorship in Iran and favored the election of Reagan in the United States. That is why I did not want to take responsibility for the change in U.S. public opinion. A people who, since the Vietnam war had been more or less convinced that there should be no interference in other countries' affairs, has suddenly become the aggressor. The neutron bomb is a serious threat and the hostage affair played a major role in this change in the American people's thinking. I opposed the seizure of the hostages because I was convinced it was sparked off by the U.S. Administration for strictly internal purposes in order to destroy our revolution. You also know that one of the reasons for the process which led to my sacking was the hostage affair....

People wanted to silence me because I had opposed the Algiers agreement. I thought it brought shame on us, showed our weakness and was a betrayal.... Indeed in this affair we lost at least $80 billion and it was the Americans who won. Therefore the pro-Americans are those who sparked off the hostage crisis and not Bani-Sadr.

SABOTAGE IN PROVINCES, ARRESTS REPORTED 19 AUG

Attacks in Agha Jari

GF191616 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 19 Aug 81

[Text] According to the Agha Jari Revolution Guards Corps, a U.S. mercenary tried to martyr the family of a brother guard at approximately 2030 yesterday by throwing a handgrenade into his house. The members of the family are devoted and faithful to the Islamic revolution, are servants of Islam and are Muslims. With the help of the Almighty, he did not achieve his inauspicious goal and succeeded in only wounding the father. He was taken to the hospital and underwent surgery.

Also, a handgrenade was thrown at the house belonging to the personnel director of the oil company. Praise be to God, it did not explode.

Crusade Office Burned

GF191818 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 19 Aug 81

[Excerpts] The hypocrites created another tragedy in Mahshahr at 2000 yesterday, 18 August 1981. As in the past, they attacked the city at night like bats and--using Molotov cocktails and incendiary materials--set fire to another one of the cultural offices of Mahshahr's reconstruction crusade. Inside the building were many copies of the holy Koran and other books containing the messages of the Koran.

A hypocrite who attempted to carry out this treacherous act last night was faced with the immense anger of the nation while trying to escape with his burned hand and attempting to join the rest of the U.S. agents. People chanting "God is great" and thus showing their hatred for the evil hypocrites delivered him to brother guards who were on patrol. After that, they started trying to locate communal houses of other American mercenaries.

At noon today these evil ones burned a vehicle belonging to one of Mahshahr's Muslims and proved again that not only are they not supporters of the masses and the oppressed but they are serving the interests of the great Satan, the United States.

According to the last report, eight of these U.S. servants have been arrested in connection with last night's fire.

Kazerun Bans Motorcycles

GF191520 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1430 GMT 19 Aug 81

[Text] The Kazerun Islamic Revolution Court has issued a communique banning the use of motorcycles with engines larger than 125 cc. It has restricted the use of other motorcycles.

The same communique has requested that owners of guest houses send information on their guests to the Kazerun police department and the revolution guards office at 0800 daily. The Kazerun Islamic Revolution Court has also warned persons who have rented their houses or rooms that they must provide a written statement with information (?on their tenants).

Weapons, Ammunition Discovered

GF191825 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1430 GMT 19 Aug 81

[Text] During the past week, the Abarqu Islamic Revolution Guard Corps discovered weapons and ammunition in the houses of monarchist and Savakist elements. Our correspondent reports that 14 assorted weapons, 1,100 rounds of ammunition for handguns and hunting rifles, 5 kg green and black powder, 750 detonators, a quantity of dynamite, telescopic sights for guns and 1,600 rounds of other ammunition were seized from these houses.

A number of magazines, pictures, slides, pornographic films, pictures of the annihilated shah and a quantity of opium and liquor were also seized from these houses. Five homeowners have been arrested in this connection and have been reported to the Islamic Revolution Court.

Merchant Wounded in Rasht

LD192022 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Aug 81

[Text] According to PARS, this morning a terrorist shot and seriously wounded a Muslim merchant in his store in Rasht. The terrorist used a Colt in the assassination attempt and his victim was immediately taken to the Dr Heshmat Hospital in Rasht for treatment. His condition is grave. This report indicates that the assailant terrorist was arrested with the people's assistance and was handed over to responsible authorities.

Arrest of 'Hypocrites'

LD192036 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Aug 81

[Text] PARS, quoting the Public Relations Office of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps of Khorramabad, reported: On 16 August our brother guards arrested seven members of the hypocrites organization [Mojahedin-e Khalq]. Three of the arrested individuals were active members of the organization and one of them took part in the explosion of the reconstruction crusade office in Khorramabad.

Four other members of groups who wage war against God were also arrested in Khorramabad and handed over to judicial authorities. The revolution guards corps of Borujerd also arrested two persons in connection with arms sales by some profiteers to minigroups. Two G-3 rifles with 112 cartridges, 3 magazines, 1 German rifle with a magazine and 2 bandoliers were seized from the arrested individuals.

Tehran Reports Arrests

LD192244 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 19 Aug 81

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report quoting the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps of Rudsar, a house which was a center for counterrevolutionaries on the Caspian Sea coast in Rudsar has been identified by a person faithful to the revolution. The residents of the house have been arrested by brothers from the Revolution Guards Corps and the mobilization of Rudsar.

According to a report by PARS, quoting the Public Relations Office of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps of Mashhad, two agents of the terrorist minigroups, who were suspected by the guards, have been arrested and handed over to the guards of Mashhad.

The same report also says that the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps of Gorgan issued a communique announcing that two members of the hypocrites organization [Mojahedin-e Khalq] were discovered in a communal house. During a clash in this house, one of the hypocrites was killed and the other was arrested. One of the brother guards was also martyred.

According to a PARS report from Kermanshah, two occupants of a motorcar opened fire on the Islamic revolution guards of this city and wounded two of them. In this connection, one person was detained. He is at present under interrogation.

Meanwhile, in the struggles and efforts of the self-sacrificing brothers from the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps of Shahrud yesterday, two communal houses were discovered in this city and two active sympathisers of the hypocrites organization were arrested.

Tabriz Official Killed

NC191614 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 19 Aug 81

[Text] A Free Voice of Iran correspondent has reported that the leader of the Tabriz Hezbollahi was killed in a successful assassination attempt by armed combatants. He was the gang leader of the Tabriz thugs and was very active in the regime's made-to-order demonstrations.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUES 605-607

605: 17 Aug Report

LD171932 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Aug 81

[Communique 605 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Over the past 24 hours, positions, fortifications, personnel and armored equipment of the aggressive enemy on most of the country's western and southern fronts came under the heavy-weapon fire of the combative units of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and losses and casualties were inflicted on Saddam's army.

In the successful operations by units stationed on the Mahshahr-Abadan front, as a result of artillery and mortar fire on enemy positions, 17 trenches, 6 machinegun emplacements, 3 troop assembly buildings, 4 ammunition dumps, 1 fuel depot, 1 minefield, 4 tanks and their crews, 1 106-mm gun and 1 vehicle belonging to the aggressors were set ablaze, killing or wounding at least 27 of them. On one of the fronts in this region, Saddam's positions came under Katyusha fire and damage was inflicted. As a result of enemy shelling on Abadan, several houses in this city were destroyed or caught fire.

The mighty forces of Islam in the western sector of Dezful, while defending their own positions, prevented enemy forces from digging trenches or keeping watch by firing on them to keep them occupied. In the Tappeh Cheshmeh, seven slit trenches, nine machinegun emplacements and one ammunition dump belonging to the aggressive Saddamist army were destroyed and one tank was damaged. Five Iraqi troops were also killed.

In the (Aungus) region, one vehicle and one enemy slit trench were destroyed by mortar shelling, and several Iraqi troops were killed or wounded. On various fronts in the Dezful region, artillery units of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran provided support for front units and completely destroyed one enemy ammunition dump and three tanks, damaging there other tanks. In these operations, a total of 12 of the aggressive personnel were killed and several others were wounded. On the Tareh and Susangerd fronts, sporadic exchanges of fire continued, with our forces having firepower superiority. In the operational sectors in the western part of the country, there were heavy exchanges of fire in Konjamcham and [name indistinct], while three were sporadic exchanges in the Ilam and Qasr-e Shirin sectors.

Our powerful forces stationed in the Paveh region brought enemy positions in Tawilah in Iraq under heavy fire, resulting in losses to military units of Saddam's army in this region. Over the past 24 hours a total of seven Iraqis have reported to Sar Dasht garrison requesting asylum and have been given a warm welcome. On the same day [as heard] an attack by two Iraqi MiG's on Sar Dasht was repulsed, thanks to the alertness of the air defense units, and the intruding aircraft were forced to flee.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

606: 18 Aug Report

LD181750 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Aug 81

[Communique 606 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In his exalted name. Combatants of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran inflicted blows against the aggressive enemy on the battlefronts during the past 24 hours. The most important operations of these self-sacrificing combatants are brought to your attention as follows:

In the Abadan-Khuninshahr region, warriors of Islam opened fire on positions of the Iraqi invaders, destroying 3 mortars, 5 ammunition depots, 13 machineguns, 1 vehicle, 1 BMP-1 vehicle, 10 machinegun trenches and observation trenches and 5 assembly building of the enemy.

On the Darkhovin As-Sulaymaniyah front, our brave combatants set an enemy ammunition depot on fire and damaged an Iraqi tank.

On the Abadan-Mahshahr axis, heroes of the Islamic homeland destroyed one observation post, one machinegun trench and several foxholes of the aggressive Iraqi Armed Forces and killed or wounded more than nine enemy personnel.

On the Arvand Rud [Shatt al-'Arab] front, our powerful forces opened fire, destroying one mortar, one ammunition depot, two machinegun trenches and one assembly building of the enemy. Several Iraqi personnel were either killed or wounded on this front.

An Iraqi Marine base in Basra came under the artillery fire of our ground forces and the enemy suffered some losses and damage.

This morning the Iraqi invading armed forces opened artillery fire on Ahvaz and Shadegan and inflicted some losses and damage on our dear compatriots in these two cities.

Combative units of Islam, in the region of Dezful, opened fire on positions of the invaders and prevented any activities and observation by the Iraqi units. While killing 17 Iraqi personnel, they destroyed 1 ammunition depot, 1 tank, 2 vehicles, 1 armored personnel carrier and several squad trenches of the enemy.

In the region of Tarrah, thanks to the fire of our forces, one command vehicle, one cannon, one tank and several trenches of the enemy were damaged and Iraqi forces suffered some losses.

On the western fronts an exchange of fire between our heroes and the enemy forces also continued. The forces of Islam had full superiority.

Yesterday brave combatants of the air defense unit foiled an attempt by enemy planes to violate the airspace of the war zones of the Islamic homeland of Iran and forced them to flee.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

607: 19 Aug Report

LD191950 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Aug 81

[Communique 607 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The following is a report on some of the operations carried out by the self-sacrificing combatants of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and on the situation on the battlefronts during the past 24 hours.

As a result of artillery fire exchanged on the Marivan front, the combatants of the ground forces opened fire and pounded enemy positions in the Tawilah region. They destroyed one 82-mm mortar, three ammunition carrying vehicles and three personnel trenches of the Iraqi forces and killed a number of their servicemen. Yesterday on the Paveh, Konjancham and Kan-e Sakht fronts, an exchange of artillery and mortar fire continued at a greater intensity compared to other fronts in the western parts of the country. At all times during these exchanges, our self-sacrificing forces enjoyed superior firepower. On the fronts west of Dezful, the might combatants of the armed forces infiltrated the enemy positions and dealt them effective blows. They opened intense artillery and heavy-weapon fire on the positions and trenches of the Iraqi forces, destroyed some of mine-fields, wiped out 1 of their ammunition dumps, 1 vehicle and 15 of their servicemen and put 1 enemy tank out of action.

An exchange of fire continued on the Ahvaz, Karkheh Kur and western Susangerd fronts. The self-sacrificing combatants of the armed forces deployed on the Mahshahr-Abadan front opened retaliatory fire on the positions of the aggressive forces of the Iraqi Army, set three ammunition dumps, three observation posts and foxholes and two trucks carrying enemy servicemen on fire, and killed or wounded about 12 of their men. On the Abadan front they caused the following casualties and losses: Seven personnel trenches and one-man foxholes, two assembly points, six heavy-machinegun emplacements, three ammunition dumps, one observation post, one mortar launcher, two vehicles and one loader were destroyed. On this front, the forces of the devotees of Islam, under fire-cover provided by the combatants of the ground forces and with the utmost bravery, launched a night attack at the heart of the enemy, set ablaze and destroyed two enemy ammunition dumps and one heavy-machinegun emplacement together with their servicemen, and succeeded in capturing three rifles and one RPG-7 as booty from the enemy.

On the Darkhovin and As-Sulaymaniyah fronts, the combatants of the ground forces, while silencing enemy fire, destroyed one ammunition dump, one vehicle, one mortar and a number of personnel trenches and one-man foxholes of the aggressive forces of Saddam.

Yesterday the city of Abadan came under enemy artillery and heavy-weapon fire and, in the meantime, the Saddamite aggressors yesterday aimed their long-range artillery fire at part of the city of Dezful. Yesterday, our naval heroes and the fighting units of the police on the Abadan and Khuninshahr fronts replied to enemy fire and destroyed the enemy's positions, servicemen and military hardware.

During the battle on 17 August 1981, 24 of our best friends and combatants from the ground forces and 1 from the air force gave up their chaste lives and attained the honor of martyrdom. The combatants of the armed forces and the fellow trench-fighters of these crimson-shrouded martyrs extend to them and their path their purest greetings and congratulations. May their souls be happy!

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

GUARDS REPORT ON OPERATIONS IN SOUTH, WEST

LD191931 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Aug 81

[Communique issued by the Public Relations Office of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. "Defense of the land of Islam and the honor of Muslims is incumbent on each and every one of us." [quotation from Imam Khomeyni]

The defenders of the Islamic revolution, thanks to the permanent presence of the combatant nation of Islam, are dealing crushing blows at the forces trangressing against the Islamic homeland. Here is a report on some of the recent operations and the situation on the fronts:

A. The southern fronts: On the Fayyaziyeh-Abadan front, thanks to medium-heavy-weapon fire by our fighting guards, a great deal of damage was inflicted on one tank, two 106-mm rifles and many personnel trenches of Saddam's forces; also, a group of Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries were either killed or wounded. On other fronts in Abadan, thanks to the pounding fire by the Islamic revolution guards on the positions of the aggressive enemy, two enemy assembly points, one 75-mm heavy-machinegun emplacement, one ammunition dump, one medium-heavy-weapon emplacement, two observation posts, and many personnel trenches and one-man foxholes together with their servicemen were utterly destroyed. In the Minu Island area, thanks to fire opened by a mortar unit of our brother guards, one enemy medium-heavy-weapon emplacement was destroyed. On the Khorramshahr fronts, too, thanks to fire opened by medium-heavy weapons and mortars by our revolution guards, one enemy ammunition dump, three assembly points, one medium-heavy-weapon emplacement of the Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries were destroyed and a group of Saddam's servicemen were either killed or wounded. In the occupied sector of Khorramshahr, thanks to medium-heavy-weapon fire by the self-sacrificing combatants of our corps. many enemy squad trenches and one-man foxholes were hit. During this destruction, several mercenaries were either killed or wounded.

B. The western region: A partisan group composed of the self-sacrificing combatants of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps on the Halaleh-Harganeh axis, on the Meymeh front, infiltrated into Iraqi territory, and by their bold operations succeeded in destroying three tanks and two mortars of the Ba'thist forces. They either killed or wounded more than 100 servicemen of blasphemy. During these operations, praise be to God and thanks to the good prayers of the Islamic nation, none of our combatant guards were harmed.

[Signed] The Public Relations Office of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps

SRI LANKA

PRIME MINISTER EXPLAINS EMERGENCY DECLARATION

BK191207 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 19 Aug 81

[Text] Prime Minister Premadasa, speaking at a function at (Timmatta Phanatura), said the emergency declared on Monday was to contain the mounting wave of violence and lawlessness that had been experienced during the last few days. This was the result of provocations by irresponsible elements both here and abroad. The government did not wish to use the full powers at its disposal unless it was absolutely necessary, because it did not wish to inconvenience the public. But lawlessness had to be met with firmly and decisively.

Premadasa added that the government under no circumstances would permit a division of the country.

BANDARANAIKE FORCES RETAKE SLFP HEADQUARTERS

BK191716 Hong Kong AFP in English 1700 GMT 19 Aug 81

[Excerpt] Colombo, 19 Aug (AFP)--Former Prime Minister Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike accompanied by her supporters stormed the headquarters of her Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) this evening and recaptured it from a group of dissidents who had seized it earlier today.

The dissidents, lead by the deputy leader of the party, Maitripala Senanayake, had marched into the headquarters this morning, grabbed the keys, ordered the staff out and held a meeting there. Among the group of dissidents was Mrs Bandaranaike's son, Anura, a member of Parliament.

The group left the building after some time, locking the doors of the building and placing some security guards there. They then gathered at the residence of Mr Senanayake where they held a press conference.

A few hours later Mrs Bandaranaike and her supporters swooped on the headquarters, chased the security guards away and reoccupied the building.

The secretary of the SLFP, Ratnasiri Wickramanayake, a staunch supporter of Mrs Bandaranaike, told AFP tonight, "We are still in control of the party office." He also said that Mrs Bandaranaike had today suspended from the party her deputy Senanayake, her son Anura, and twelve other party stalwarts who are in the Senanayake group. He said Mrs Bandaranaike would issue a statement tomorrow.

The thirteen suspended men are all members of the 22-member Central Committee, the main policy-making body of the party.

Hundreds of people gathered outside the headquarters of the party at Darley Road, Colombo, which was being guarded by the police tonight.

At the press conference earlier today Mr Senanayake said that his group of thirteen had held a meeting of the Central Committee at the party office after seizing it and appointed Anura Bandaranaike as the acting secretary of the party. He said Anura had replaced Mr Ratnasiri Wickramanayake as secretary of the party as he was acting unconstitutionally.

The dissident group was issuing letters to all the party branches telling them to take directives in future only from Acting Secretary Anura.

Mr Senanayake accused Mrs Bandaranaike of subverting the party's constitution and conducting its affairs in a dictatorial (?manner). Anura told newsmen that their action was not aimed against his mother, Mrs Bandaranaike. He said they had moved to save her and the party from destruction.